



# Important Acronyms in Special Education

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## IDEIA:

# Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (Formally IDEA)

- + Federal legislation that is designed to ensure that students with disabilities (ages 3-21) are provided with a free and appropriate public education.
- + The six main elements of the legislation are:
  - + Individualized Education Program (IEP)
  - + Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
  - + Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
  - + Evaluation
  - + Parent and Teacher Participation
  - + Procedural Safeguards

# FAPE:

## Free and Appropriate Public Education

- + One of the key elements of IDEIA. States may enact higher standards but, at minimum, must comply with the federal standard which requires that special education and related services are:
  - + Provided at public expense under public supervision
  - + Meet the standards set by the State Education Agency (SEA)
  - + Incorporated in pre-school, elementary school and secondary school
  - + Are provided in conformity with the student's IEP

LRE:

## Least Restrictive Environment

- + A student with a disability should be educated in a setting that provides the student a chance to work and learn with students without disabilities to the greatest extent possible while still meeting the child's unique learning needs.
- + IDEIA's strong preference is to educate students in regular classes with appropriate aides and supports.

# PPT:

## Planning and Placement Team

- + There are several reasons to convene a Planning and Placement Team meeting (annual review, review evaluations and determine continuing eligibility, review/revise IEP, etc.).
- + Required members of the team include: parents, general education teacher, special education teacher, representative from the district who knows of available resources, an individual who can interpret evaluation results and the child (when appropriate).
- + Many changes to the IEP cannot be made without convening a PPT, though some more minor changes can be done through an amendment with the consent of the parent.

# IEP:

## Individualized Education Program

- + An IEP is a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed and revised during a PPT meeting held at least yearly to provide students with a free and appropriate public education. The IEP includes:
  - + Prior Written Notice, which outlines actions taken or refused by the PPT
  - + Present levels of academic achievement and functional performance
    - + Outlines strengths, concerns and impact of disability in each area
  - + A statement of measurable annual goals and related objectives
    - + How progress toward meeting the annual goals/objectives will be measured
    - + When progress reports will be provided
  - + Necessary modifications and accommodations
    - + State and district testing and accommodations
  - + Transition planning, when appropriate
  - + Special education and related services